

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 9, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Stamford Museum and Nature Center

Council members present:

Burke, Jennienne Peoples	Care to Care (Family Centers)
Cook, Lucia	Literacy Volunteers of Stamford/Greenwich
Farrell, Anne	UConn Stamford
Feder, Karen	Abilis
Fico, Karen	Stamford Public Schools, Special Education Resource Teacher
Fox, Bridget	Chair, Stamford School Readiness Council
Garcia, Maritza	Adult Learning Center
Hallisey, Jennifer	United Way of Western CT
Mullett, Alisha	SoundWaters
Reardon, Ellen	Stamford Museum and Nature Center
Rigano, Sue	Stamford Public Education Foundation
Short, Bob	Family Centers
Ward, Caroline	Ferguson Library
Weller, Eva	PLTI
Wenz, Karen	First Presbyterian Church Nursery School

Advisors:

Garvin-Kester, Barbara	Childcare Learning Centers
Sargent, Carol	Childcare Learning Centers

Guests:

Ahuja, Sonja	Liaison, Graustein Memorial Fund
Hickley, Julie	Bright Horizons at High Ridge Park

I. Welcome and Introductions

Bridget welcomed the Council and thanked Ellen Reardon for hosting the meeting at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. Melissa Mulroney, Executive Director of the Museum, joined the group for a few minutes and welcomed everyone to the Museum and thanked the Council for the positive work that they do in the community. She invited everyone to tour the grounds after the meeting and especially to visit the preschool building.

II. Announcements

- Bridget shared the local election results from the night before in Stamford, including the new roster of board members on the Board of Finance and Board of Education. She suggested that CLC and the Council host an event in the new year to introduce new board members to the early childhood community and bring them up to speed on how the system works and how many children are served, etc.
- Swingset Mamas concert update: 3 VIP packages have been sold, 100 general admission tickets and 7 sponsorships.
- Barnes and Noble Reach Out and Read Literacy event happening tomorrow, 11/10 at the Barnes and Noble in Stamford (at the mall). The Mayor and Superintendent will read to students during the day and the evening will be a pajama reading for preschoolers as well as a re-enactment of scenes from Willy Wonka presented by Greenwich Catholic high school students. Lucia Cook worked hard to pull this event together! All proceeds (a percentage of sales) will go to Reach Out and Read and ultimately to Literacy Volunteers.
- Eva announced that on January 24th the first PLTI class will be held. It is a 20 week class. Also, PEP (classes in Spanish) and Parent See will also begin in January. Eva encouraged everyone to bring this announcement back to their programs and to encourage parents to apply.
- Sue Rigano reported on the search for the new Superintendent. Dr. Jackie Jacoby, a consultant, will be conducting focus groups across the City with different constituencies to garner input. There will be a survey going live created by CAGE that will be sent around so please complete.
- Jennienne reported that there will be a medication administration class happening at Government Center on 11/15 from 7-8:30 p.m.
-

III. Regular Reports

A report from Sacred Heart and CLC was sent in advance of the meeting and is included as an Addendum to this report.

Anne reported about the Education Committee's planned Professional Development Conference scheduled in the Fall of 2012 (October 9 and 10, 2012). Each day will be the same conference (attendees only attend *one* day) and the idea is to serve 400 teachers and administrators total (200 Day 1; 200 Day 2). There are several partnering sponsors on board: SAEYC, CLC, Norwalk Community College, UConn Stamford and the Stamford Directors Group.

A small group of committee members have received confirmation that Judy Jablon, a nationally renowned early childhood speaker, is available to act as a keynote and facilitate the conference.

About Judy Jablon: Ms. Jablon is an experienced early childhood PD presenter and consultant. Her 2011 book, *Powerful Interactions: How to Connect with Children to Extend Their Learning*, is among more than 10 influential works in the field. The book outlines how "everyday" interactions can become intentional and purposeful, influencing the learning environment for children. Ms. Jablon presents across the country on instructional strategies to improve classroom environments and child outcomes. She received her Bachelors degree at Sarah Lawrence College and started her career at the Bank Street

College of Education. After years of classroom experience and college level instruction, she completed graduate work in Cross Cultural Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. More information at http://www.judyjablon.com/services_professional.html and <http://www.judyjablon.com/about.html>.

Anne will be working with Bridget and the committee to finalize details for the event, but plans are coming along.

IV. Old Business

No old business

V. New Business

Guest speaker #1: Jillian Gilchrest, MSW

Early Care & Education Policy Analyst
Connecticut Association for Human Services
110 Bartholomew Ave, Suite 4030
Hartford, CT 06106
860-951-2212 x233
jgilchrest@cahs.org

Jillian shared with the group information about her work at CAHS and her role as voice of childcare providers across the State. Member of her provider network include all provider types – from family to center based care. Through her list serve, Jillian provides weekly policy updates and poses questions to providers. Her list serve currently has over 800 people. She also hosts regular provider meetings in Hartford and generally 60 people attend.

Jillian offered to come back to the Council meeting in the spring when the legislative session is underway to address any concerns or answer any questions about legislation.

Guest speaker #2: Rachael Sunny

CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Rachael.sunny@ct.gov

Rachel shared information about the No Child Left Inside Movement and Project Learning Tree (a curriculum for preschool classrooms).

She shared valuable information about how to access professional development for preschool teachers and programs. Rachael runs 6 hour workshops after which participants receive curriculum books. Rachel provided a powerpoint that walked through the Project Learning Tree curriculum and addressed questions about professional development opportunities.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14th at Family Centers, 60 Palmers Hill Road.

Addendum #1: CLC Monthly Report (October)

- Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity – Full Day – 334; Part Day – 97; Extended Day – 113 = 544
 - b. Ages: 3 year olds – 224; 4 year olds – 319; 5 year olds - 0
 - c. Children with disabilities = 19 with IEP
3 without IEP
 - d. Notes and Trends: N/A
- Program Attendance:
 - a. 99% Attendance. 1 Full slot was open Slots.
 - b. Notes and trends: - none
- Staffing
 - a. Open Positions – 1 Teacher Aide in Cluster E
 - b. Recruitment – ad on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC
 - c. Training:
 - October 21st – Staff Development Day – **Learning Experience Plans** – focus on Creative Performance Standard. Presented by Julie Coakley and Michele Sabia. **NAEYC Accreditation – Classroom Portfolios** – Presented by Carol Sargent and Instructional Coordinators.
 - October 20th and 27th– NAEYC Accreditation – Relationships – Presented by Margo Sandahl and Sharon McAdoo
 - “Training Wheels” – October 17th and October 24th – Team from Cluster E and Director attended
- Special Events/Activities:
 - Teachers are preparing lesson plans based on the Preschool Curriculum Standards and the individual needs of the children.
 - Parent Advisory Committee meeting occurred on October 25th
 - Connecticut Public Broadcasting filmed at William Pitt for a segment on “The Achievement Gap” which will air early in February.
 - Cristoline Fund raiser – profits of \$3,000.00. Money is used for field trips
 - Greenwich Academy visited the classrooms on October 7th.
 - Behavioral Health team is meeting bi-weekly to discuss any children with challenging behaviors
 - Captain 5 A Day – visited October 13th
 - PAF/PCF workshop for Cluster A parents occurred on October 18th – Margo Sandahl presented.
 - Field trips to Bruce Museum and Stamford Museum and Nature Center for all classrooms.
 - Cluster B – field trip to Stamford Museum and Nature Center for Apple Cidering – October 19th
 - Julie Coakley is continuing the monitoring process and giving immediate feedback to the staff.

Addendum #2: **Sacred Heart Monthly Report**

School Readiness Council Report Sacred Heart School November Meeting 2011

Program Utilization:

- School Day – School Year – 47 Students
- Pre – K 3 Class – 17
- Pre – K 4 Class #1-15
- Pre – K 4 Class #2-15
- All 20 School Readiness slots are full.

Program Attendance:

- Children – 95% Colds, fevers
- Staff – 100% (with exception to staff who are out doing child development observations for their CDA classes)

Staffing:

- No changes as of August 2011

Activities & Events:

- Heard from NAEYC accreditation assessor and now waiting for her to send us our 15 day window of time for her visit. This visit should happen anytime between now and November 30th of this year.
- SHS attended a preschool fair at Holy Spirit School on October 5th.
- CT Charts a Course held a new scholarship assistance lottery in October for providers and individuals for licensed by the DPH. Several of my assistant teachers applied and received financial assistance for fees and tuition related to their CDA programs.
- SHS Head Teacher's attended a teacher PD on 10/11 hosted by the Diocese of Bridgeport. Bishop William Lori held a teacher's mass and teachers were treated to a workshop in "Bullying" and what a teacher's responsibility is.
- Many of our families attended the Mill River Park Day and stated that it was a wonderful event!
- Bridget Fox & Michele Sabia met with Sr. Mary Grace and SHS director on 10/17 to go over the SR policy and explain some of the mandatory requirements of SHS. Sr. Mary Grace appreciated the meeting as it helped to define SR and SHS responsibilities.
- SHS children were treated to a Fire Awareness program on 10/19 from the South End Fire House. Lt. Ryan Kerwin (brother of a SHS teacher) planned the event.
- Teachers from SHS were treated to a Director's Group Pizza dinner and Workshop on 10/19 given by Ellen Swan.
- SHS Head Teacher's attended a workshop on 10/21 hosted by Michele Sabia and Julie Coakley on activities to use in conjunction with the CT Framework Performance standards.
- All SHS children attended the annual UCONN Literacy experience with Stamford Mayor Michael Pavia as the guest reader! Great job Mayor!!
- Our final visit with Donna Delohery from AFP happened on 10/28. She will be missed as she was a great support and had a great wealth of knowledge. She "held our hand" through the whole process, making sure that we were always on track to accreditation!!
- Our Fall Parade and Neighborhood Walk took place on 10/31. We visited with our neighbors, Sacred Heart Church Rectory, The Dominican Sisters and the Hampton Inn & Suites.